# Geoduck Aquaculture Feasibility Pilot Project

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

# Geoduck Aquaculture Pilot Project

- 2003 Legislature asked DNR to develop proposal
- Should DNR lease state-owned aquatic lands (intertidal and/or sub-tidal) for geoduck aquaculture?
- Report back to 2005 Legislature

# Pilot Project Steering Committee

- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife
- 18 Puget Sound Treaty Tribes

- Contract with University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Pacific Shellfish Institute, and Baywater, Inc.
  - Comprehensive literature review & synopsis of biology, life history, and ecology of geoduck
  - Report on research findings related to subtidal geoduck aquaculture
  - Assessment of geoduck genetics & requirements for stock management
  - Report on natural recruitment and survival
  - Design of Phase II in-the-ground study and protocols

- Economic Analysis by Northern Economics, Inc.
  - Impact on wild fishery
  - Market elasticity—demand for wild vs. aquaculture product
  - Market demand—domestic & international

- Steering Committee Issues
  - Legal issues—rights of tribes to 50% of harvestable surplus of geoducks
  - Enforcement—chain of custody to ensure legal harvest & health

#### Outreach

- Meetings with county Marine Resources Committees, shoreline planners, County Councils & County Commissions, watershed groups, industry groups
- e-Newsletter
- Web Site
- Display
- www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/agr/shellfish/agua/index.htm

- Jump-start project
  - In-the-ground data collection
  - Partner with UW School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences graduate student
  - Partner with geoduck growers and harvesters
  - Small scale
  - Focus on question of when geoducks become sexually mature

# Opportunity for Public Input

- Public Opinion Survey
  - qualitative, not quantitative
  - questionnaire available on web site
- Public Meetings
- Phone & e-Mail
- Newsletter contains contact information

#### **Timeline**

- Spring-Summer-Fall 2004
  - Meetings of Steering Committee & Outreach
- Summer 2004
  - Jump-start data collection by UW student
- October 2004
  - Final UW Report
  - Economics Study
- January 2005
  - Report to Legislature

# Geoduck Seed



# Geoduck Seed



## Geoduck Seed in Tube



## Geoduck Tubes

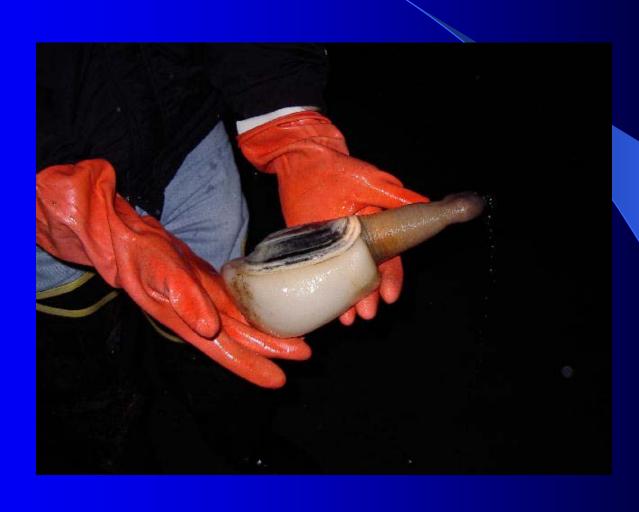


# Geoduck Tubes Removed











# Geoduck

